**New Balance Nationals Outdoor vs USATF Junior Championships:   
Making an Informed Choice**

This year these meets fall on the same weekend. USATF has made the decision to schedule the Junior Championships (also a qualifier for the IAAF U20 Championships in Finland in July) on June 15-17, 2018.

We encourage athletes who intend on competing in one or the other (or both) to make an informed decision. Certain events are dominated by college freshman, and there would not be the competition in those events that would be at the New Balance Nationals Outdoors (NBNO).

We are strong believers in the Junior program. The National Scholastic Athletics Foundation was founded to help fund athletes to the US Junior Championships. In fact, we will help fund certain athletes the US Junior Championships who we feel have a very good chance of making the U.S. team.

We do this even though we are running our meet on the very same weekend and, of course, would prefer to have those athletes in Greensboro. But we want to do what is best for the athletes and their development on the international level.

What follows is an event-by-event summary of the best Juniors and their chance to make the team. Generally, the U.S. will take two athletes per event given they have met the IAAF U20 meet standard. For the 100m and 400m, they make take four for the relay pools. And only those born in 1999, 2000, 2001 or 2002 are eligible to compete in the IAAF U20 World Championships.

The IAAF U20 meet standard is in () next to the event name. Note that all listed may not necessarily attend the Junior Championships. In many cases, especially on the college level, coaches may want their athlete to bypass this meet for a variety of reasons. So the assumption here is that those listed will compete.

WOMEN



Both Twanisha Terry and Tamara Clark have been very consistent and are the favorites. Tamari Davis is too young, having been born in 2003



We would guess that Sydney Mc Laughlin will not be running in this event (and, if she did, would probably concentrate on the 400m Hurdles). Again, Tamari Davis is too young, so the favorites would be Williams, Clark and Minor.



Kaelin Roberts (Pac 12 Bronze medalist) and Symone Mason (ACC Champ) are the presumptive favorites here. Again, McLaughlin unlikely to compete here.



This could be a battle with five athletes in contention for the two spots. Watson may opt to run the 1500m. Wilson-Perteet is the new find, making enormous progress since last year when she was a California high school student. Kamryn Mc Intosh has been running really well after an injury during her high school years. She is ACC runnerup both indoors and out.



All college girls here, though Caitlin Collier’s 1500m en route time for her 4:38 mile over the weekend might actually be the US Junior leader.



We are not sure of Katelyn Tuohy’s attendance at the Juniors. Like this event, the 5000m and the 3000m Steeplechase have college athletes as favorites.







A very competitive event as always. Too bad they only take two! Tia Jones was a 2016 World U20 medalist following her freshman year.



Probably no Sydney Mc Laughlin, as noted. Like the shorter hurdles, another very competitive event.



This is a chance for at least one high school athlete to make the team. Jelena Rowe has been very consistent, and is the National Junior College champ.



Rachel Baxter is the class of the field.





Jasmine Moore is significantly ahead of all others, and has a windy 45-4.75 at the Texas state meet



Total domination by college athletes, as are the discus and hammer.







Again, too bad they only take two! Dana Baker and Skylar Ciccolini have been over 170 several times. Maura Fiomancini has the US leader and is consistently over 170. She had a 160 best as a high schooler last year.



No one yet has the IAAF U20 standard. They would probably have to get it at the USATF Junior championships. Note that New Balance Nationals Indoor pentathlon champion, Anna Hall (Valor Christian, CO), has personal bests which total 5500+ points.

MEN



This could be a mix of high school and college athletes, as with the 200m. Anthony Schwartz, if healthy, is almost sure to make the team. Khance Meyers ran a wind-aided 20.02 200 at the Junior College nationals last weekend.





With so many under 46.50, it will be very difficult to predict. Taj Burgess went from 47.22 last year in high school to Big 10 runner up this year and the US Junior lead.



Josh Hoey, not running for his high school, has been the most consistent 800m runner this year.



Brodey Hasty and Dalton Hengst, two high schoolers, have been fairly consistent and have a shot to make the team.



Only four so far have made the IAAF U20 standard. Cooper Teare is the significant leader and medaled in the Pan Am Juniors 1,500 last year.







The 39” hurdles is the event contested. There is no clear favorite here except for Corey Poole who has some big times over the college hurdles.



A college dominated event, though Thomas Burns (Northestern, Miami, FL), who ran 50.12 last year, is a possibility. He has split under 45 seconds on a relay and has run 36.56 for the 300m hurdles this year.



Another college dominated event, with Noah Affolder the clear favorite.



Juvaughn Blake has been the most consistent of the 7-3 jumpers.



This is one event where high schoolers have been dominant. The schedule of both meets allows for doubling, and KC Lightfoot has entered both.



There are no 25-0+ high school athletes. Juvaughn Blake, the favorite in the high jump is also the favorite here.



Stanford-bound Keyshawn King is the only qualifier for the IAAF U20 championships.





Like the women, the weight events are all college.



Only two qualifiers thus far. Taran Taylor was a 186-4 high school thrower and improved to the American Conference runnerup, adding 57 feet to his high school best. Tzuriel Pedigo has been the best high school thrower by far. This is an event where athletes can double, so Pedigo will do both the Juniors and NBNO.



The marks given are using the college implements. This appears to wide open. Kyle Garland, the 2017 Pan Am Junior champion, not listed, could be the favorite.

Here are the bests with the high school implements:

